

Viking Saga

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

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Capital campaign to impact stadium, fieldhouse

KIERA AVILA
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

As Northwest kicks off the school year, they have also begun launching new additions around the school to make students' experience here special. In addition to the updated gym, auditorium, science labs and library, the school has started a capital campaign, which is focused on the football field and fieldhouse. The capital campaign is looking to the public for donations. In addition to being used for athletic events like football and soccer games, the new field will be used as a practice field, open to all grades across the district.

"The design and pushing the project forward goes to Dr. Edwards," said Athletic Director Matt Fritsche. "He understands how terrific our [sports and] activities are and wants them to have more space."

CONTINUED ON PG. 3

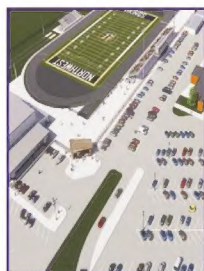


The capital campaign will include changes to the parking lot, football field and, as pictured, the stadium.

PHOTO FROM NORTHWEST WEBSITE

Changes in School

Learn more about some of the physical changes our school is undergoing.



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Wyatt Feature

Junior Wyatt Gildersleeve tells Viking Saga readers about his battle with cancer.



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New Teachers

Please welcome new teachers Schiley, DePaolo, Armstrong and Smith!



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State Fair Food

Which state fair foods are worth trying? Find out here!



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VIKING SAGA

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Any and all submissions must be signed to be considered for publication, and the editor reserves the right to edit or print any submissions.



To mask or not to mask:

How schools should handle student safety

BY EMELIA RICHLING
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The issue stifling classrooms during the back-to-school season doesn't concern which color folder should be used for each sub-



ject but the highly disputed yet necessary discussion of whether students should be wearing masks.

With a nationwide uptick in COVID-19 cases, school administrators scramble to find a solution for the highly politicized and very public issue of mask mandates. Even with vaccine rates on the rise and mask mandates being implemented in major cities, national cases are over three times what they were in September of 2020, according to the New York Times coronavirus data model.

The pandemic is far from over, but the issue of requiring students and staff to wear masks is only beginning. While education is paramount to society, maintaining public safety is equally vital.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the spread of coronavirus within schools is often lower or similar to community spread. However, the disease is still considered highly transmissible, so the CDC recom-

mends indoor masking, regardless of vaccination status.

One task placed in the hands of the school system is to promote health equity both physically and mentally. For students who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic because they are immunocompromised, placing trust in school officials can be a gamble, as many administrators must make a decision for the well-being of their community without medical training.

Consequently, school officials should focus on how the spread of the virus is impacting their community and listen to guidelines published by local health experts. The decision of whether to mask students and faculty should be solely based on ensuring public safety.

For students, regardless of the decisions made by administrators, it's important to feel safe. If masks aren't required but community spread is increasing, the student should make a decision that ensures their safety.

To guarantee that education remains in-person, many schools across the nation are already wearing masks to prevent the spread before it may have a chance to begin. If sporting events, theater performances or classes are threatened by impending outbreaks, donning a mask is the least we can do to protect ourselves, our peers and our families.

In an Associated Press article, Ruth Colker, a disabili-

ty-law expert and professor at Ohio State University, describes how schools already have plenty of restrictions aimed at protecting the health of kids. Because of particles in the air, for example, peanuts are not permitted in many schools or cafeterias. Masks protect students in nearly the same way, impacting a large group of people to maintain the safety of those with prior health conditions or people who simply don't want to miss extra days of school and activities.

Due to the steady rise of cases, Grand Island remains in the high transmission area, according to the data model published by the Central District Health Department. Local health officials strongly encourage administrators to consider advising or requiring masks if outbreaks occur in school.

Like there is no one mask for every situation, no one solution will work for each school. Being conscious of how coronavirus is affecting the area you live in is the most plausible but progressive solution. This may require a mask, and, if you're unsure, it can't hurt to simply put one on to curb the spread.

Once you have placed your papers in the acceptable color folder, it's important to support your school community's safety, whether that means wearing your mask or leaving it at home for the day.

New changes arrive to Northwest

October Issue
NEWS 03

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"The design and pushing the project forward goes to Dr. Edwards," said Athletic Director Matt Fritsche. "He understands how terrific our [sports and] activities are and wants them to have more space."

The idea of this project has been around for almost 30 years. When looking at the football field, most people see dead grass, dirt and holes. The new upgrades will include safer

facilities for athletes and spectators.

"There is a lot of research out there that shows astroturf is better for injury prevention," Fritsche said. "This provides an ADA (American Disability Act) compliant and safer bleachers" Fritsche said. "I did the math and I believe that we could impact up to 1,700 students a year with feeder schools and high school students alone."

When looking for do-

nations, the school will need around 7.5 million dollars, with the first phase being 2.5 million and the second phase being around 5 million.

"We're hoping that there are people that are as passionate about the things as we are and that they show that passion with their checkbook," said Fritsche.

With more donations NW will be set to get things done on time.

"As of right now, we

would love to have the first phase done by the beginning of next football season. As for the second phase, we are looking at up to eighteen months," Fritsche said.

The second phase would be the fieldhouse. It would include a multi-surface floor for cheer, dance, softball and golf. The fieldhouse would be a clean and safer environment for all sports and activities to practice and prepare.

Renovation rundown: Finalizing updates at NW

BY EMILY KRUPICKA
BUSINESS MANAGER

Construction will soon wrap up at Northwest High School, leaving behind improved educational facilities. After a summer's worth of anticipation, students will finally have the opportunity to make use of all the school's upgrades.

The changes include an updated auditorium, science lab, gym and library.

"As a school, we've had to think really hard about what our kids need," said Principal Tim Krupicka. "It was important for us to listen to the students and decide how we can benefit them with the most up-to-date resources."

New proposals have been tossed around for years, but no actual changes were approved until 2020.

"We have some really great stuff happening in our auditorium and gym every year," Krupicka said. "With band and orchestra concerts, musical productions, one act performances and sports games, we thought that upgrades in these areas would be really helpful."

The auditorium now has a middle walkway and new seating, while the gym

has refurbished flooring.

Senior Kristan Rinkol has taken note of the renovations happening around school and explained her excitement for the upgrades.

"I'm taking Advanced Chemistry right now, so I'm really looking forward to the new science room," Rinkol said. "I've heard some really great things about it."

In the science lab, counter tops, cabinets and shelves will be replaced, and new safety equipment will be added.

As someone who spends her mornings and afternoon classes in the library, Rinkol was also pleased by the library's new look.

"I was

pretty surprised when I saw it for the first time," she said. "The new carpet and lay-out look really nice. Honestly, it makes me feel more productive."

The updates to the auditorium, gym and library have been completed, and the science lab is scheduled to be finished in October.



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Gildersleeve's 'full send' inspires a community to fight cancer

BY TRINITY BREWER
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

To junior Wyatt Gildersleeve, childhood cancer was something he had only heard about in commercials and seen on TV, so it seemed strange when what was fictional and far away became real.

Near the beginning of the year, Wyatt, a sophomore at the time, noticed a small bump on his left forearm. Wyatt told his family, and, initially, they believed it could have been chalked up to any number of things, such as a strained muscle from lifting weights for football.

After a few months, though, the discomfort did not ease, so Wyatt was taken to an orthopedist in Grand Island. After an X-ray, doctors were not able to make a diagnosis and told Wyatt to monitor his activity and pain.

"They ordered an MRI, and then that's when they kind of had their suspicions," Wyatt said.

Following the MRI, doctors explained that the results were concerning and set a meeting for the Gildersleeve family with a musculoskeletal orthopedic oncologist in Omaha, where Wyatt was diagnosed with pediatric cancer.

"It's called Ewing's sarcoma," Wyatt said. "It's basically a type of bone cancer."

Ewing's sarcoma is extremely rare, with fewer than 1,000 cases per year, according to a 2021 Mayo Clinic Report. It is a tumor that forms in bone or soft tissue.

After the diagnosis, Wyatt and his family faced many changes to their routines, especially over summer break.

"We took him to a lot of testing, so we were up in Omaha a lot," said Makenna, Wyatt's twin sister. "And then we always used to go to the lake, but there's a lot of bacteria and stuff, so we weren't there as much."

And now, back at Northwest, Wyatt has to balance both chemotherapy and schoolwork. With help from administrators and teachers, he has been able to keep up with his learning while commuting to and from Omaha.

"Wyatt does a phenomenal job of doing exactly what you ask him to do, how you ask him to do it, the way you want it done," said science teacher Anthony LaRosa. "That is the most you can ask of anyone to do in any situation."

Wyatt, a football player, has also stayed committed to his team.

"I've been trying to be a part of the team as much as I can," Wyatt said. "Just kind of helping out with drills and things like that with Coach (Kevin) Stein."

Wyatt's teammates, along with the coaches, have been very supportive throughout his journey.

"They have been wearing wristbands," Wyatt said. "And they talk to me and ask how everything is going."

The yellow wristbands, also worn by classmates, are a way to bring awareness to Wyatt and childhood cancer. There are also shirts and sweatshirts available for purchase through Team Gilly, an online apparel store.

The store is currently open, and will remain so until Oct. 4. Orders can then be picked up from Jeanne Webb on Oct. 18. The link for the store is https://stores.inksoft.com/team_gilly/shop/home.

As for the wristbands, those are free of charge and bring attention to Wyatt's motto, which is to, simply put, "full send."

"We're going to move on, and nothing's going to stop us," said Emily, Wyatt's mom, describing the meaning behind the expression. "He's a fighter."

Wyatt has inspired students at Northwest with his determination and resilience. As a result, the student body has come together to support Wyatt and continues to do so.

There are many ways to show that support, such as asking Wyatt how he is doing, wearing the Team Gilly apparel, bringing awareness for his cause and praying for him and his family.

"I think the amount of support and the prayers have really got us to the point that we are at now," Emily said. "We are so grateful to be a part of the Northwest Viking nation. We are beyond blessed to be part of the school."

Students can stay updated with Wyatt's journey through CaringBridge, a website that allows Emily to share journal entries, pictures and information. She uses the platform to communicate and hopes it will encourage people to continue praying.

To stay connected, students can follow the Wyatt Gildersleeve page and enable push notifications.

"The word 'hero' gets thrown around a lot in our society and I believe it's overused," said Jeremy, Wyatt's father. "But I can say without a doubt Wyatt truly is my hero."

NW introduces new classes

SOPHIA MASON
CONTENT ORGANIZER

Northwest has introduced new classes, including a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course from Central Community College and lifetime sports with teacher Jessica Herrmann.

“[Lifetime sports is] meant for kids to have fun and try new things,” Herrmann said.

Herrmann tries to have students play sports during their respective seasons.

“This class is like another P.E. class,

but [without] the mile run and other tests,” Herrmann said.

Currently, the class has about eight students, so there is plenty of room for newcomers to join next semester.

Another new class that is offered is the CNA course.

Danielle Matriciano, a senior, and Makayla Rhoads, a junior, took the class for different reasons.

“When I was five years old, I was diagnosed with leukemia, so I have always wanted to be a nurse since then,” Matriciano said.

For Rhoads, joining the class is

important because her “family has always been in the health field, and I always thought that was cool.”

As part of the class, Matriciano and Rhoads have the opportunity to work with mannequins and doctors to prepare them for their future careers.

Matriciano wants to do pediatrics or become a registered nurse while Rhoads hasn’t yet decided.

This class is available in the mornings and afternoons both fall and spring semesters. There is a cost associated with the class, so contact the counselor’s office to learn more.

An analysis of the Taliban takeover

EMILY KRUPICKA
BUSINESS MANAGER

With its last troops evacuated from Afghanistan, the U.S. concluded its 20-year war. Once again, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan, marking a new chapter in their rise to power.

The U.S. first entered Afghanistan after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which killed just short of 3,000 Americans. The strikes, orchestrated by terrorist group al-Qaeda under the governance of the Taliban, prompted then President George Bush to deploy troops in 2001.

Since then, approximately 2,300

American service members have died in Afghanistan, according to a 2021 casualty report by the Department of Defense.

While many have criticized former presidents’ handling of the situation, conversations were much different two decades prior.

“We went to Afghanistan almost 20 years ago with clear goals,” said President Joseph Biden in an August White House briefing. “Get those who attacked us on Sept. 11 and make sure al-Qaeda could not use Afghanistan as a base from which to attack us again.”

At the time, most Americans rallied around those efforts. In recent times, how-

ever, sentiments have changed.

In 2002, a Gallup poll revealed that 93% of Americans supported sending troops to Afghanistan. Since then, more Americans have opposed, with only 46% in favor as of this year.

“When I made the decision to end the U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, I judged that it was not in the national interest of the United States of America to continue fighting this war indefinitely,” Biden said. “I made the decision with clear eyes.”

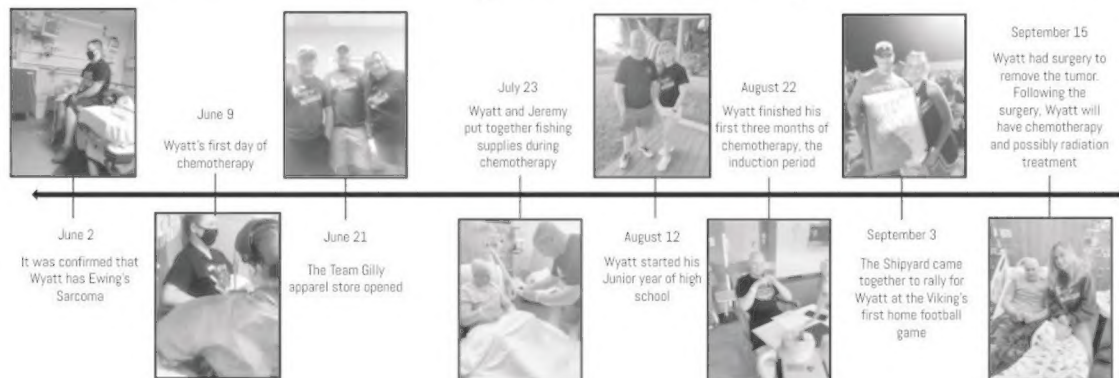
Despite Biden’s sentiments, many have criticized his judgement. However, it has also been recognized that if there was a tangible solution for the war that spawned across four American presidencies, an answer would have already presented itself.

The truth of the matter isn’t as simple as presented. Near the end of America’s involvement, there were only two options: lose or not lose.

After nearly 20 years, winning was not even a possibility. Biden had the option to pass the burden of the war to another president or choose defeat.

He chose the latter.

A walk-through: Wyatt’s journey



'We're all in this together'

Foreign exchange students adjust to their 'High School Musical' experience



'Looking forward from centre stage'

BY EMELIA RICHLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This year, foreign exchange students are taking centre stage after schools were unable to host them last year due to COVID-19. As concerns ease, students from various countries are experiencing their own "High School Musical" adventure.

For Laetitia Hoehnisch, studying abroad in America is about stepping away from everything she has known. Her home country, Germany, was comfortable, but the familiarity did not allow her to grow in the ways she wanted.

"In America, I have to talk to people and be open-minded," Hoehnisch said, discussing how she hopes to experience various cultures because leaving

behind some traditions will allow her to do so.

Similarly, before leaving for her exchange year, Donna Mulder, from the Netherlands, prepared a bucket list with the American experiences she hoped to have, including prom and graduation.

"It's true that everything is bigger here," Mulder said, explaining how accurate the stereotypes are. "[Americans] are so kind and outgoing."

American culture differs from what many students are used to, and the education system proved to be an additional adjustment.

"There's a lot less subjects to choose from in Sweden," said Elvin Ohrstrom. "We would have different schedules for every day."

With the exception of initial

homesickness on the first night, the students have appreciated the change, welcoming trips to the state fair and school dances.

"At some points, [the experience] is similar to the movies," said Enni Stroth of Germany.

Her experience started later than her peers' since her arrival was delayed. She missed out on some back-to-school traditions, such as assemblies and new student orientation. However, she adjusted well, finding her place within a few days.

According to Mulder, students are encouraged to forget any expectations of America, but she couldn't help doing so anyways.

"It truly is like 'High School Musical' but without the singing."



ELVIN
//
SWEDEN



DONNA
//
NETHERLANDS



LAETITIA
//
GERMANY



ENNI
//
GERMANY



'The world can see us'

BY TREASURE MASON
CONTENT ORGANIZER

Spending a year completing paperwork, writing essays and saving money for a year in the United States was worth it for the new foreign exchange students.

"I had to get a new passport and a visa and vaccinations," Dutch Donna Mulder said.

Though the process was long and tiring, the exchange students found that they are enjoying the experience already, even if they have only spent a few months in America. The students have made new friends and started new relationships that will last even when they go back to their countries.

"You get to experience different cultures," Elvin Ohrstrom said, explaining one of the most beneficial parts of the program.

However, becoming an exchange student is certainly not cheap. The cost could be as high as \$20,000 for some students, so it could take years to earn and save the money.

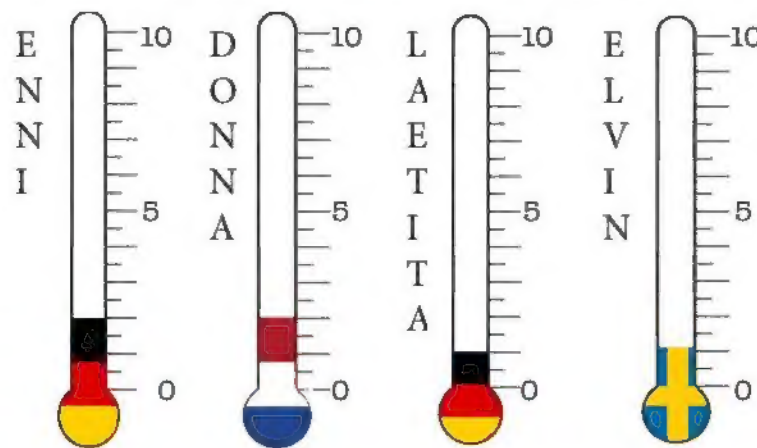
Another potential red flag for exchange students is falling behind in the school curriculum of their native country.

"You often lose one year of school when you come back," Ohrstrom said.

For many students, losing a year of school is worth the exchange of new experiences, such as going to the state fair and trying school activities. As the first months of their visit conclude, the students have a lot of time left for them to create and accomplish new goals and enjoy prom, graduation and football games in the process.

'Who says we have to let it go?'

HOW HOMESICK ARE YOU?



'Start of something new'

WHAT IS THE COST?



'Get'cha head in the game'

BY EMELIA RICHLING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Getting involved is an important way to enhance high school experiences, and the exchange students have found a variety of ways to do so.

German Laetitia Hoehnisch and Dutch Donna Mulder had never played golf before, but they quickly took to the game when joining the school team.

"In Sweden, you have to join a club for sports," said Swedish Elvin Ohrstrom, explaining how he plans to participate in soccer through the school.

Since Enni Stroth's departure from Germany was pushed back, she is unable to participate in fall sports but plans to run track.



From student to teacher, Schily returns home to NW

BY SOPHIA MASON
CONTENT ORGANIZER

Patrick Schily is a new teacher at Northwest High School. He teaches industrial tech, which includes classes like consumer auto, carpentry, and drafting. He has been teaching for 20 years. He starts his life here on grand island, most of his life.

He was even a student at Northwest Highschool for his freshman and sophomore year.

Before he became a teacher, he was an entrepreneur, building

homes and rentals. He went to college to get his undergrad at UNK. Then went back to school for his master industrial technology degree at Wayne state and his grandmaster school counseling degree back at UNK. He taught many different types of people by teaching sixth graders to college students for three years. But what he missed most was Grand Island. Coming to NorthWest he says is "like coming back home." He continues to say that everyone from the teachers to students have been so friendly and nice to

him.

His favorite thing to do of course is teaching, with him being most excited to use "my hands to help his students learn anything and everything about his subjects." said Shilly. Also, getting back into some computer programs for the computer aid class he teaches. The most exciting thing is that his first three classes are building a house not far from the school.

We here at Viking Saga are glad to have Mr. Shily be a part of our school.



Armstrong joins faculty to teach, coach

BY EMMA SMITH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With the recent start to the school year, many new teachers have jumped onto the Viking boat, excited to begin their Northwest voyage. One of these newcomers is Andrew Armstrong. He is a special education teacher, who shares a room with fellow newcomer Jaclyn Smith at the west end of the freshmen hallway.

"I taught five years at Lincoln High, and then I coached at Lincoln Northeast for six years," Armstrong said. "That was right out of college."

Armstrong is also the middle school soccer coach, which he has been involved with since his days in senior high.

"I get to spend time with the students ... that's a big part of why I do what I do,"

Armstrong said. "I love going and watching athletic events and musicals ... that sort of thing."



Armstrong's love for education comes from his father and grandfather.

"My grandpa and my dad were both teachers and are now administrators," he said. "So I kind of have grown up around it and I'd say it's more through family that I gained a passion for teaching."

His positive feelings do not stop at just sports or academics. He also shares an optimistic view of the Northwest community and the Viking culture.

"Here it's ... a community feel," he said.

"Everyone's kind of working together, it's fun. The culture here is really good. It just seems like a great place to be."

Armstrong has also been able to make connections with other teachers.

"Mrs. Smith is over here, so I've gotten to know her pretty well," he said. "Then ... the people in this hallway so far."

With a new start at Northwest, Armstrong is excited to embrace what makes the Vikings special: the culture.

Scuba diving to students thriving

October Issue
FEATURE

09

BY AUDREY WISEMAN
EVENT COORDINATOR



At Northwest, there are many fresh faces. New teachers and students alike are exploring the home of the Vikings. The Viking Saga headquarters wants you all to give a warm Viking welcome to Mahria DePaolo, a new teacher in the special education department.

DePaolo was born in Denver, Colorado, and grew up in Port Orange on Daytona Beach in Florida. She received her bachelor's in special education at the University of Central Florida and her master's in K-12 administration and supervision at the University of Phoenix. She went to Argosy University in Atlanta and Northcentral University in California for her doctorate of education and cur-

riculum and is attending Northcentral to finish up her dissertation for that doctorate.

"My husband and I have 10 children and 19 grandchildren," DePaolo said. Her children range from 31 to 44.

Before she began teaching, DePaolo worked many other jobs as a teenager and young adult.

"My first job, my father and I opened a scuba diving business in Port Orange, so I ran a dive shop from the age of 15 until about 25," DePaolo said. "I worked at a private golf course, I worked for a grocery store in the deli, and I was a director of Sylvan Learning."

DePaolo's favorite job aside from teaching is her dive shop and her instructor position in the U.S. Coast Guard.

"I worked in middle and high schools in Florida, Washington, South Carolina, Minnesota, Alaska and then Nebraska," DePaolo said. "All schools are a

unique experience with the students and staff. I think working here at Northwest, the family atmosphere has been the best out of all of the schools."

In her 24 years of teaching, DePaolo has experienced a lot of stigma around special education and does not like to use the term "SPED" to describe her line of work.

"I am a teacher who works with students to learn different strategies for study skills, test taking and self-advocacy, and I work in all subjects," DePaolo said.

Being a special education teacher at Northwest has not caused issues for DePaolo; quite the contrary, in fact.

"I am absolutely loving my job and the people I work with," DePaolo said. "I am learning the Northwest ways, and students are very kind in helping me navigate."

DePaolo's favorite parts of her job are "the students, the staff, the camaraderie and being a family. It's hard to have that in a school that's huge, but I love having it here."

Introducing Jaclyn Smith

BY TREASURE MASON
CONTENT ORGANIZER



New special education teacher Jaclyn Smith has known since she was a kid how to answer the age-old question "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

"I dressed up as a teacher for Halloween when I was little," Smith said.

Smith teaches ninth-grade resources, academic foundations and reading essentials. Her classroom is in the freshman hallway where Kim Coates used to be.

Smith said that she enjoys working here because of the people and built relationships with the students and the teach-

ers.

After growing up in Wisconsin and moving to Nebraska, she attended York College and received her bachelor's degree in K-12 special education and 4-9 math education.

Before working at Northwest, Smith taught English to Chinese children online and also tuned pianos.

If Smith's last name rings a bell, she is married to Greg, a history and sociology teacher, and the assistant wrestling coach.

"We can occasionally eat lunch together," she said. "And we get to drive to work together if we need to".

Greg also added that she's very musically inclined, something he shares with his classes and friends.

"She has an amazing voice and

can play the ukulele," he said.

According to Greg, the coolest thing about Smith is her husband. Smith also helps with FCA (Fellowship for Christian Athletes) with her husband.

The Smiths have a five-year-old son, Levi, "Talking to people that are older than five years old." Smith said it was one of the most exciting things about working at Northwest.



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10 October Issue

OPINION

BY TRINITY BREWER
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

The Nebraska State Fair was held at Fonner Park from Aug. 27 through Sept. 6, featuring concerts, races and attractions. However, what draws many people to the fair is the food.

The classic funnel cake topped with strawberries and cream was the first to draw my attention. The strawberries were a delicious addition to the standard funnel cake. As for the size, it was large enough to share, making it a bargain at \$6.

Contrary to the funnel cake, many food options at the fair are overpriced, especially the chocolate-covered banana on a stick. Although it also costs \$6, it's relatively smaller than the funnel cake.

Fair foods fair well

In addition, you could easily recreate this snack for cheaper at home. After giving it a try, I was impressed with the high quality. The cold, sweet treat provides an enjoyable way to cool off from the summer heat.

Another chilly option is the pineapple Dole whip. While you can purchase ice cream from a variety of vendors, the pineapple Dole whip is only available at one location. As a result, there was a wait time of approximately five minutes. Still, it was worth standing in line, as the flavor is unique and refreshing.

Apart from the assortment of snacks, I tried a traditional Italian dish, the chicken alfredo calzone. It appeared to be a combination of pizza and pasta, as it was dough covered with noodles, chicken and alfredo sauce that were flavorful and

savory.

Throughout the State Fair, I consumed a variety of items. Even though I would recommend all of the food, my favorite was definitely the pineapple Dole whip, as the flavor was very distinct. Next year, I will certainly be eating at the State fair again and plan on trying a giant, smoked turkey



Trinity Brewer/Viking Saga Media leg.

Let's talk about BookTok

BY SOPHIA MASON
CONTENT ORGANIZER

"Red, White and Royal Blue" got its popularity on the app Tik/Tok over this early summer with fans raving but in all actuality, this book is amazing. This book that I will talk about is "Red, White and Royal Blue" by Casey McQuiston.

Alex Clairemont- Dias is the first son of President Ellen Claremont of the United States. His sister and The vice president's granddaughter are all good friends, which makes them the white house trio. They also make a great marketing campaign for Alex's mother towards millennials. When they go overseas, for the royal wedding. Alex sees his long-time frenemy, prince Henry. With a little bit too much champagne and a tip of a cake, they end up having to be best friends to so not to cause overseas tension and to make sure the tabloids don't go crazy with speculations. Now, Alex has to go back to

Britain to make nice with the prince. With the visit full of photoshoots and charity events. The worst of it all is the prince of England at his side the whole time. He would much rather be studying for mid-terms. Acting like they have been friends their whole life.

Will this forced friendship end more than that? Who knows? This book has easily become one of my newest favorites. It shows that the first family is a real family with fights, and that living in the White House is not at all what it's cracked up to be. This consists of approval of every outfit that they wear from a group of officials, running posts by to see if officials spot anything that could cause problems and that even the tiniest thing they do or say can spiral them into a scandal. From meetings to events then to finishing out his college degree, how does Alex balance it all? Even being a prince has its same hardships too, and even one messes up could cause the whole world to go wild.

One wrong word means that the tabloids for the whole month are about the little mess up they made. I would like to state that this book does have some senses that may not be appropriate for the younger crowd.

If you are looking for a flawless teen romance novel this is the book for you. It includes a woman president and a little bit of scandal. From discovering the secrets of the castle and the White House to the beautiful relationship between Alex and Henry unfolding. Even a bit of sibling banter and beautiful scenery, this book has won its spot in my heart and many others.

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Charles Hurley

What is your favorite high school memory?

"I transferred here this year. Getting to know everyone and meeting new people along with the pep rally in the gym was super fun."

What is the hardest part of being a senior?

"The more advanced classes I'm gonna have to go through."

What is your best advice for underclassmen?

"Pay attention to your grades so you don't have to catch up at the last second."



Reagan Fries

What is your favorite high school memory?

"My freshman year the back-to-school dance was something I will never forget."

What is the hardest part of being a senior?

"All the things you have to do your senior year: applying for college, scholarships and graduation."

What is your best advice for underclassmen?

"Try your hardest, but also have fun because these can be some of the best years of your life!"



Brayden Edwardson

What is your favorite high school memory?

"The little bit of time I spent to FFA gave me some of the best school memories."

What is the hardest part of being a senior?

"Being here. It frustrates me to see how some people act in a public environment."

What is your best advice for underclassmen?

"I would say the best advice would be to just look in the mirror and ask yourself am I the person that I want to be."



Sadie Czarnick

Do you drive to school? What music did you listen to on the way to school?

"I do not drive to school because I am 14. I listen to pop music."

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

"I'm looking forward to my friends and relationships with people."

What are you involved in or wanting to get involved in?

"I'm involved in photography, choir and drama. I want to get involved in tennis."



Keith Krolkowski

Do you drive to school? What music did you listen to on the way to school?

"Yes, country."

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

"Track season."

What are you involved in or wanting to get involved in?

"Band, cross country, track, 4-H and horse riding."



Sarah Clark

Do you drive to school? What music did you listen to on the way to school?

"I do drive to school. Today I listened to 'Cavetown.'"

What are you most looking forward to this school year?

"I'm mostly looking forward to the big performances in band."

What are you involved in or wanting to get involved in?

"Band and eSports. This year I would like to get back into trap shooting."

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